



Cherish the Ladies & Friends

The Easter Rising of 1916

Cherish the Ladies:

Joanie Madden
Mary Coogan
Mirella Murray
Kathleen Boyle
Liz Knowles

With special guests:

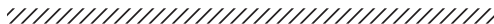
Dermont Henry
Danny Doyle
Gabriel Donohue
Rory Makem
Máirtín de Cógáin

Dancers:

Garrett Coleman
Jason Oremus

PROGRAM

There will be an intermission.



Saturday, April 2 @ 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

Ireland, A Terrible Beauty: A Centennial Celebration in Story and Song of the Epic Struggle for Irish Freedom, 1916

The program will be announced from the stage.

This program was inspired by the book *A Terrible Beauty* by Jill and Leon Uris, as well as the poem "Easter 1916" by W. B. Yeats (text below):

I

I have met them at close of day
Coming with vivid faces
From counter or desk among grey
Eighteenth-century houses.
I have passed with a nod of the head
Or polite meaningless words,
Or have lingered awhile and said
Polite meaningless words,
And thought before I had done
Of a mocking tale or a gibe
To please a companion
Around the fire at the club,
Being certain that they and I
But lived where motley is worn:
All changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

II

That woman's days were spent
In ignorant good-will,
Her nights in argument
Until her voice grew shrill.
What voice more sweet than hers
When, young and beautiful,
She rode to harriers?
This man had kept a school
And rode our winged horse;
This other his helper and friend
Was coming into his force;
He might have won fame in the end,
So sensitive his nature seemed,
So daring and sweet his thought.
This other man I had dreamed
A drunken, vainglorious lout.
He had done most bitter wrong
To some who are near to my heart,
Yet I number him in the song;
He, too, has resigned his part
In the casual comedy;
He, too, has been changed in his turn,
Transformed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

III

Hearts with one purpose alone
Through summer and winter seem
Enchanted to a stone
To trouble the living stream.
The horse that comes from the road,
The rider, the birds that range
From cloud to tumbling cloud,
Minute by minute they change;
A shadow of cloud on the stream
Changes minute by minute;
A horse-hoof slides on the brim,
And a horse plashes within it;
The long-legged moor-hens dive,
And hens to moor-cocks call;
Minute by minute they live:
The stone's in the midst of it all.

IV

Too long a sacrifice
Can make a stone of the heart.
O when may it suffice?
That is Heaven's part, our part
To murmur name upon name,
As a mother names her child
When sleep at last has come
On limbs that had run wild.
What is it but nightfall?
No, no, not night but death;
Was it needless death after all?
For England may keep faith
For all that is done and said.
We know their dream; enough
To know they dreamed and are dead;
And what if excess of love
Bewildered them till they died?
I write it out in a verse--
MacDonagh and MacBride
And Connolly and Pearse
Now and in time to be,
Wherever green is worn,
Are changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Cherish the Ladies – Celebrating 30 Years

"It is simply impossible to imagine an audience that wouldn't enjoy what they do", says *The Boston Globe*, speaking of Cherish the Ladies, the long-running, Grammy® Award-nominated, Irish-American super group that formed in New York City in 1985 to celebrate the rise of extraordinary women in what had been a male-dominated Irish music scene. It has since toured the world, played at the White House and the Olympics and recorded 16 outstanding albums, including *An Irish Homecoming*, a live recording of their Emmy® Award-winning public television special that aired across America and Ireland.

Under the leadership of the dynamic and irrepressible flute and whistle champion Joanie Madden, these ladies create an evening that includes a spectacular blend of virtuoso instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements and stunning step dancing. Their continued success as one of the top Celtic groups in the world is due to the ensemble's ability to take the best of Irish traditional music and dance and put it forth in an immensely entertaining package.

The New York Times calls their music "passionate, tender, and rambunctious", and the *Washington Post* praises their "astonishing array of virtuosity." They've won recognition as the BBC's Best Musical Group of the Year and were named the Top North American Celtic Group by both the Irish Music Awards and NPR's Thistle and Shamrock, not to mention having a street named after them on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx: "Joanie Madden and Cherish the Ladies"! Over the course of 30 years, the Ladies have performed thousands of concerts and have collaborated with such notable musicians as The Boston Pops, The Clancy Brothers, The Chieftains, Vince Gill, Nanci Griffith, Pete Seeger, Don Henley, Arlo Guthrie and Maura O'Connell, as well as being the featured soloist with over 300 performances with symphony orchestras.

They are in constant demand worldwide as their reputation and admiration from both fans and critics alike continues to grow. Their name may come from a traditional Irish jig but after 30 years, they have proven that the jig is still not up as these ladies blaze forward into another decade of music making!

Joanie Madden was born in New York of Irish parents and raised in a musical household. Her mother hails from Miltown Malbay, County Clare and her father Joe, an All-Ireland Champion accordion player, was from County Galway. At a very early age, Madden was exposed to the finest Irish traditional music, listening to her father and his friends play music at family gatherings and social events. She began taking lessons from flutist Jack Coen, and within a few years, she achieved great success, winning both the All-Ireland championship on the flute and becoming the first American to win the coveted Senior All-Ireland Championship on the whistle.

With solo album sales over 500,000 units, Madden is the top selling whistle player in history. She has performed on over 185 recordings, including three Grammy® Award-winning albums. Throughout her stellar career, she has amassed a multitude of awards and citations: she is the youngest member inducted into both the Irish-American Musicians Hall of Fame and the Comhaltas Hall of Fame. Twice, Madden was voted as one of the Top 100 Irish-Americans in the United States by *Irish-America Magazine*, and *The Irish Voice Newspaper* named her Traditional Musician of the Year as well as one of the Top 25 Most Influential Irish Americans of the Past Quarter Century for her contributions to promoting and preserving Irish culture. Madden was bestowed one of the United States' highest awards when she was chosen for the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, joining an illustrious list including six United States Presidents as well as Ambassadors, Senators, Congressmen and Supreme Court Justices, all singled out for their exemplary service to the country. In

2012, she had a street named after her in her native Bronx: “Joanie Madden and Cherish the Ladies,” and in 2013, she was chosen Grand Marshall of the Yonkers St. Patrick’s Parade, received a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Irish Music Association and was also delighted to become the first Irish musician to win the prestigious USA Fellowship Award, naming her as one of the most creative and influential artists in America.

Mary Coogan, a founding member of Cherish the Ladies, and was born in New York and raised in a musical household. Her mother emigrated from Castlereagh in County Roscommon and her father Jim was a great accordion player whose parents emigrated from County Waterford. Her father passed down his love of Irish music, and Coogan became a self-taught guitar, banjo and mandolin player. In addition to her outstanding musical talents, Coogan also holds a Masters degree in education and was named in “Who’s Who among American Teachers.” She has a number of recordings including a beautiful solo album entitled *Christmas*, and also one with her father called *Passing Time*. Her close ties to children encouraged her to join forces with singer Kathy Ludlowe in an album for young fans entitled *The Big Ship Sails*. Coogan continues to teach music to children in New York and is a highly regarded and sought-after accompanist. *Acoustic Guitar Magazine* named Coogan one of the top four guitarists in Celtic music.

Mirella Murray grew up in Claddaghduff on the North West coast of Connemara in County Galway. Her father John Joe, a notable sean nós dancer, came from Inishark Island and had a deep understanding and love for traditional music. Murray studied the piano accordion with Mary Finn, and it was at music classes that she met lifelong friend and legendary fiddler, Liz Kane from Letterfrack. Murray and Kane played together throughout their youth and went on to win an All-Ireland duet championship, the same year Murray won the Senior Accordion All-Ireland championship title.

Murray recorded an album entitled *Three Sunsets* with well-known fiddle player Tola Custy from County Clare, which was voted one of the top five albums of the year by *The Irish Times Newspaper*. She has performed for the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland and also two Presidents of Ireland: Mary MacAleese and Michael D. Higgins. She has toured extensively, performing in Moscow, Austria, Scandinavia, Switzerland, Spain and France. She was a featured soloist in the off-Broadway production of the late Johnny Cunningham’s theatrical production, *Peter & Wendy*, an adaptation of J.M. Barrie’s *Peter Pan*, which garnished two OBIE Awards. Murray has an incredible flair for teaching, and it is a credit to her musicianship that 22 of her pupils have gained All-Ireland titles. She has accumulated a vast store of tunes from her travels, and musicians such as Sharon Shannon, Lunasa and the Bumblebees credit her as a source for many uncommon melodies.

Kathleen Boyle is from Glasgow, Scotland and comes from a family steeped in the traditional music of Donegal. Her father is a talented musician and handed down his love of music to her. Boyle is a talented pianist and accordion player and has won All-Scotland and All-Britain titles on both instruments. In 1999, Boyle made history as the first graduate to gain a degree in traditional music from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. She is in great demand as a teacher and lecturer on both accordion and piano at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music and The Irish Academy of World Music in Limerick University.

She has performed at Holyrood Palace for His Royal Highness Prince Charles and for Irish President Mary McAleese. Boyle’s travels with Cherish the Ladies and Dochas have taken her around the world with tours of the UK, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Sweden, America, Canada and China. Dochas was voted best newcomers at the 2004 Scots Traditional Music Awards and nominated as best folk band in 2006. Boyle’s first solo album *An Cailin Rua or The Red Haired Girl* was released to rave reviews in 2008.

Her latest recording, *Back to Donegal*, is an album she recorded with her father and family members.

Liz Knowles hails from Kentucky and has brought her distinctive sound – the fire and finesse of Irish fiddle music combined with the tonal richness of the classical violin – to concert stages and festivals across the world. Her auspicious beginnings as the fiddler for *Riverdance* and as soloist on the soundtrack for the film *Michael Collins* established her as a virtuosic and versatile performer, and she has since performed as soloist with orchestras such as the New York Pops and the Cincinnati Pops. Knowles also performs with another all-star female super-group, the highly acclaimed String Sisters. She just finished four years touring Europe, Asia and South America as performer and music director of the wildly popular Celtic Legends, an Irish music and dance show.

Knowles first distinguished herself as a violinist in New York City, performing in venues as Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center and Broadway theatres, with artists such as Marcus Roberts, the Bang-on-a-Can Orchestra, Bobby McFerrin, Paula Cole, Steve Reich, Eliot Goldenthal, Rachel Barton, Don Henley and Tim O'Brien. It was also in New York that she discovered her true passion for Irish music. Today, she is well respected on both sides of the Atlantic as a player, composer and teacher. Her compositions and arrangements of tunes and songs have been recorded by John Whelan, Liz Carroll, Beolach, J.P. Cormier, Michael Black, John Doyle, Dennis Cahill and Flook.

Dermot Henry is without a doubt one of the most talented and entertaining performers on the Irish music scene. Born and raised in County Sligo, Henry traveled throughout Ireland as a singer and songwriter with his band Dermot Henry and the Virginians, achieving number one hits in the charts in Ireland before emigrating to America. He is an amazing poet and songwriter and many of his songs went on to become huge hits for numerous top Irish artists. He has traveled and toured with Cherish the Ladies for many years and continues to be extremely popular at venues and festivals throughout the United States.

Danny Doyle is one of Ireland's best balladeers and has continued to celebrate the music of the Emerald Isles since relocating to the United States in 1983. Called "the greatest Irish ballad of all time," by multi-instrumentalist/producer Donal Lunny, he scored with such hits as "A Daisy A Day", "Streets Of London", "Lizzie Lindsay", "Whiskey On A Sunday" and "The Rare Ould Times" in the 1960s. Continuing to build on the aural tradition of Dublin's street-singers, he collaborated with his sister, Geraldine, on an album, *Emigrant Eyes* in 1993 that told the musical tale of the Irish emigration to North America in the 1840s. Doyle has recorded 25 albums and has worked extensively with pianist/producer Bill Whelan, best known as composer of *Riverdance*, exposing the former pop-rock arranger to Celtic music. He's also known for his massive repertoire and has extensively researched the songs of 1916.

Rory Makem is a seasoned performer with over 25 years on the road. He has toured extensively with The Makem and Spain Brothers and for 17 years toured and played guitar with his father, the legendary Tommy Makem. He has entertained countless sold-out venues, festivals and theatres throughout the United States, Canada, England, Scotland and Ireland. At his best on stage, Makem captivates audiences with his skilled musicianship, charisma and passion for the songs, his extensive knowledge of poetry and history and his humor. The love of song runs deep in his family. Continuing a legacy handed down from his grandmother, the seminal source singer Sarah Makem, he pulls the songs of the sailors, the laborers, the lovers, the fighters and the land from the pages of history and breathes life into them. An adept interpreter of folk songs, he masterfully accompanies himself on guitar, banjo, mandolin or bouzouki.

Máirtín de Cógáin is a singing, dancing, story-telling bodhrán player who also is a noted playwright and actor. Descended from a long line of storytellers and with two CCÉ All-Ireland's for storytelling under his belt, he gets no more joy out of life than the telling of stories. His parents instilled in him a love of the Irish language and he is a fluent speaker of Irish (Gaelic), earning a degree in Irish language from the University College Cork. If not touring the world, you will find him on stage singing, storytelling, dancing or playing the bodhrán. He is also an actor and has appeared in the film *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*. He has co-written many productions with the Be Your Own Banana Theatre Company, recently playing *De Bogman* off-Broadway in NY.

Gabriel Donohue was born in Athenry, a walled medieval town in County Galway that was founded in the 12th century. Hailing from this well-known village, his music is filled with a strong sense of history and his love of storytelling is evident through his song, which belongs to another time and place. Donohue grew up in an extremely musical household and by age 14, he was a member of the Leitrim Ramblers Ceili Band, traveling all around the Connemara Gaeltacht and throughout the west of Ireland. His talent was not limited to traditional music, and he moved more into the showband side of the music when he joined Magic, which had numerous top ten hits in Ireland. He got a taste of the entertainment side of music and appeared on Irish radio and television. Donohue is an extremely gifted and talented guitarist, pianist, bouzouki player, singer and songwriter. His musical artistry has always had him in high demand for many of the elite in Irish music circles. For five years, he toured around the world with the Chieftains as their accompanist, worked and performed with Michael Flatley and toured with Cherish the Ladies, Eileen Ivers and Joanie Madden. Donohue makes his home in Pennsylvania where he has his own recording studio and has recorded and produced many of the top traditional artists in America.

We are also joined by the incredible dancing of World Champion **Garrett Coleman** and former lead dancer for *Riverdance*, **Jason Oremus**!